

worldwide, more than 80 percent of all adult HIV infections have resulted from heterosexual intercourse. The largest number of persons infected with HIV/AIDS are Sub-Saharan Africans, totaling at present 25.3 million, though Asia is presently set to out-pace Africa in the next decade.

In twenty years, HIV has infected a reported 52 million people worldwide. 21.8 million have died from AIDS, 3 million in the year 2000. Of the 36 million people presently living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, 34.7 million are adults, 18.3 million are men, 16.4 million are women and 1.3 million are under the age of 15. It is estimated that during 2000, 5.2 million people were newly infected with HIV, an average of 14,250 daily.

In the 20 years since AIDS was identified, more than 800,000 Americans have been diagnosed with AIDS; nearly half of them have died. Today, AIDS still claims two lives every hours in this country. Worldwide, more than 35 million people are currently living with AIDS . . . 22 million have already died. Three million lives were lost in 2000 alone. Most of them died without adequate medical care or treatment for even the most common and treatable infections that accompany the disease.

We must never forget the contributions of those who have gone before us. Today as we recognize the 20th Anniversary of the discovery of AIDS, I commend the 12 National Organizations from across the country, who have come together to launch a national campaign to provide health care, treatment, and prevention education and information to millions of Americans impacted by this epidemic with the following goals:

To raise the level of awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States and its devastating impact on our nation in the last 20 years. To illustrate for America's leadership the catastrophic worldwide epidemic and its likely toll in human lives. To motivate Americans, particularly policymakers, to recommit to advances in treatment, medicine and science. To engage Americans of all ages in local activities that allow them to understand that this epidemic touches everyone.

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, AIDS Project Los Angeles, The Balm in Gilead, Broadway Cares, Gay Men's Health Crisis, The National Association of People with AIDS, National Minority AIDS Council, The NAMES Project Foundation, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and the Whitman-Walker Clinic are all to be commended for coming together in this unique partnership to launch a national public affairs campaign to provide health care, treatment, and prevention education and information to millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, 20 years of AIDS is Enough!

#### 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF NORMANDY ON D-DAY

**HON. FELIX J. GRUCCI, JR.**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2001*

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask all Americans to join me in pausing for a moment

to remember the 57th Anniversary of one of the greatest fights for freedom in world history: the invasion of Normandy on D-Day.

The men, who fought this battle, many giving their lives, did nothing short of saving the world. At a time when Europe was dominated by Hitler, these soldiers mounted an invasion that many were sure was impossible at Omaha and Utah beaches, securing the coast against all odds, and beginning the final drive to defeat the Nazi's. Anyone who has seen the movie Saving Private Ryan has seen but a glimpse of this greatest battle of World War II.

Today, more than a thousand World War II veterans are dying each day. These men and women, who secured the freedom we enjoy today, both in America and abroad, are heroes. Their bold actions and selfless sacrifices will soon be honored on our National Mall with a new monument for them, and are being seen and appreciated anew through the eyes of a new generation. Whether it be at the theater seeing Pearl Harbor or countless other venues, our children are seeing that World War II isn't just a history lesson in school, it was heroic actions by ordinary men and women, which shaped the world in which we live today.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I am asking all Americans to join me in reflecting on the sacrifices made by these soldiers, and say a silent "Thank you" to them.

#### AIDS EPIDEMIC

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 5, 2001*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, twenty years ago the medical world was riding a wave of confidence. Our scientists had conquered polio, tuberculosis, smallpox, you name it. We were ready for any new challenge. But no one was prepared on June 5, 1981 for the crisis that was to come. Some thought this new discovery to be a rare pneumonia, others a new form of cancer. It attracted minor attention at the time, but little did we know that the world was about to meet the most devastating epidemic of our time—AIDS.

When we look back now at our response to the onset of AIDS, we see a nation that ignored an epidemic and a Congress reluctant to devote resources to finding its cure. Too many people believed that they could never contract AIDS and they failed to protect themselves from it. But no one is immune, and by the time we looked up AIDS had reached every community across the world. One need only look at the decimation of the African continent to see the dramatic consequences of our inattention to AIDS.

In the last decade we have made great strides in this country in dealing with this terrifying crisis. Research funded by the NIH has yielded incredible breakthroughs in treatment, indefinitely prolonging the lives of people living with HIV. The Ryan White CARE Act has established a comprehensive program of treatment and support services, bringing a little

hope and humanity to people living with HIV and AIDS. The HOPWA program is helping almost 60,000 people a year find the stable housing they need to live long and productive lives. We should be proud of these efforts.

But there is a new epidemic that has beset us. It is called complacency. The flat funding for Ryan White proposed by the President, the rising number of HIV cases reported in women, the dramatic increase in HIV across communities of color. These should serve as a wake-up call to all of us that our work is nowhere near done. We must redouble our efforts in prevention and treatment if we hope to ever eliminate it from our midst. Before we can eradicate AIDS, we must eradicate the complacency that surrounds us.

Mr. Speaker, anniversaries are a time for reflection, a time to look back at where we've been and look ahead to where we may be going. We have a lot to be proud of in our response to the AIDS epidemic, but let's take this opportunity to re-energize our AIDS policy and conquer this terrible disease once and for all.

#### PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER IN DIARELA

**HON. JO ANN DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 6, 2001*

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, a constituent from Virginia's Northern Neck sent me a report on the work of his daughter, a Peace Corps Volunteer in Diarela, a remote village of approximately five hundred farmers near Mali's border with Ivory Coast, in Western Africa.

Until the parents visited in Mali, they had difficulty answering their neighbors' standard question, "What does she do there." There is no short, easy answer. She lives in a house built and furnished to Peace Corps specifications: a tin roof, mud walls and a concrete floor, a table and a chair. The nearest electricity and running water are hours away. She has a bicycle and some basic tools, and only a very small stipend. Where else are Americans asked to live and work with so little, and with the vaguely-implied imperative to do what you can in the best interests of the United States of America?

The visiting parents of Ms. Kallus saw the intangible results of her efforts as a Peace Corp volunteer when she invited the men of the village to drink tea. At least forty came. They conversed about many subjects: from crops and weather to self respect and the brotherhood of races. Ms. Kallus skillfully translated from Bambara and French to English. Around midnight, one of the village farmers spoke up, saying, "We trust you, Batoma." (That is the name they have given her.) "You work hard and speak the truth. Because of you, we know and respect the United States."

Americans can get no better return on their tax dollar than that.